

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1, 3-12 and 14-16 are pending and have been examined.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jason Rhodes on 08/19/2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 12 line 3 between "to" and "receiver" delete "the" and add "a".

In claim 12 lines 7-8 between "to" and "receiver" delete "the" and add "said".

In claim 12 line 9 between "to" and "receiver" delete "the" and add "said".

In claim 12 line 14 between "of" and "receiver" delete "the" and add "said".

In claim 12 line 15 between "content" and "receiver" delete "the" and add "said".

In claim 12 line 16 between "until" and "receiver" delete "the" and add "said".

Allowable Subject Matter

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1, 3-12 and 14-16 are allowable because the prior art fails to teach or suggest a content distribution method in which a receiver receives, through a first communication system, a signal containing a plurality of contents with corresponding content identifiers, limitation information and transmission source information; retrieving

release information using the transmission source information through a second communication system; and preventing normal output of a particular content until a match is detected between the limitation information and the release information as recited in the claims.

The closest prior art, Maa (US 5,818,935), discloses a system in which encrypted content is distributed with source information; and the source information is used to obtain release information for the encrypted content. Maa either singularly or in combination fails to anticipate or render obvious the above limitations.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Claims Rejoined

4. Claims 1, 7-12 and 14-16 are allowable. Claims 3-6, previously withdrawn from consideration as a result of a restriction requirement, require all the limitations of an allowable claim. Pursuant to the procedures set forth in MPEP § 821.04(a), **the restriction requirement among inventions I and II, as set forth in the Office action mailed on 06/13/2006, is hereby withdrawn** and claims 3-6 are hereby rejoined and fully examined for patentability under 37 CFR 1.104. In view of the withdrawal of the restriction requirement, applicant(s) are advised that if any claim presented in a continuation or divisional application is anticipated by, or includes all the limitations of, a claim that is allowable in the present application, such claim may be subject to

provisional statutory and/or nonstatutory double patenting rejections over the claims of the instant application. Once the restriction requirement is withdrawn, the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 121 are no longer applicable. See *In re Ziegler*, 443 F.2d 1211, 1215, 170 USPQ 129, 131-32 (CCPA 1971). See also MPEP § 804.01.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JOHN R. SCHNURR whose telephone number is (571)270-1458. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:00am to 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Grant can be reached on (571) 272-7294. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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